## JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 9

1. NAME:

Mr. Robert L. Reibold

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:** 

3321 Forest Dr., Suite. 1

Columbia, SC 29204

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(office): 803-454-0944

2. Date of Birth:

1970

Date of Birtin.

17/0

Place of Birth:

Springfield, OH

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes.

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes.

- 5. Family Status: Married on April 14, 2007, to Shealy Boland Reibold. Never divorced, one child.
- 6. Have you served in the military? N/A.
- 7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
  - (a) The Pennsylvania State University, 1988-92, BS (Finance);
  - (b) USC School of Law, 1992-95, JD.
- 8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

SC, 1995.

- 9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
  - (a) College:

Golden Key National Honor Society

Acacia Fraternity Scholarship Chairman;

(b) Law School:

Moot Court;

Order of the Barristers;

National Moot Court Team;

Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity.

10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

Conference/CLE Name

<u>Date</u> 4/1/2005;

(a) Robert Masante's: Killer Expert Depositions

1/1/2005,

(b) Advanced Personal Injury Practice

4/14/2005;

(c) Writing Credit – SC Lawyer Magazine

7/22/2005;

(d) ABC's of Effective Ethical Practice

10/14/2005;

(e) E-Discovery and Evidence

5/5/2006;



(f)	Legal Aspects of Condominium Regimes	8/25/2006;
(g)	6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Civil Law Update	1/25/2008;
(h)	A Day in Discovery – Part 1	1/26/2008;
(i)	A Day in Discovery – Part 2	1/26/2008;
(j)	New Rules of Professional Conduct	2/10/2008;
(k)	Rules, Rules	12/12/2008;
(1)	Civil Court Judicial Forum	9/30/2009;
(m)	Annual Free Ethics Seminar	11/6/2009;
(n)	Employment & Labor Law	1/22/2010;
(o)	Torts & Insurance Practice – Part 1	1/22/2010;
(p)	Torts & Insurance Practice – Part 2	1/23/2010;
(q)	Alternate Dispute Resolution	1/2011;
(r)	Annual Free Ethics Seminar	11/4/2011;
(s)	Dispute Resolution Section	1/29/2012;
(t)	Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section	1/20/2012;
(u)	Employment and Labor Law Section	1/20/2012;
(v)	DL – 265 Lawyer Depression and Mental	10/20/2012;
(w)	Circuit Court Judicial Forum: Advanced	10/262012;
(x)	Annual Free CLE Ethics & Substance	11/9/2012;
(y)	Dispute Resolution Section	1/24/2013;
(z)	Employment and Labor Law Section	1/25/2013;
(aa)	Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section Civil Law Update	1/24/2014;
(bb)	Criminal Law Section – Part 2	1/24/2014;
(cc)	SC Circuit and Family Court Arbitrator	5/5/2014.

- 11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
  - (a) I made a presentation as a speaker at the Automobile Torts CLE in the Fall of 2000;
  - (b) I made a presentation as a speaker at the Masters in Equity CLE in October of 2010.
- 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
  - (a) The SC Unfair Trade Practices Act Is it Time for a Change? (SC Lawyer, May/June 2013) (Author);
  - (b) SC Equity: A Practitioner's Guide (S.C. Bar CLE 2010) (Co-Author);
  - (c) Hidden Danger of Using Private Detectives (SC Lawyer, July 2005) (Author);
  - (d) Cutting the Fishing Trip Short: Protecting an Adjuster's Claim File (SC Lawyer, July/August 2000) (Author);
  - (e) The Big Catch: An Adjuster's Claim File (SC Lawyer, July/August 2005) (Author).
- 13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
  - (a) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC on November 13;
  - (b) Admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of SC on July 1, 2006;
  - (c) Admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit on July 26, 2006;

- (d) Admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, August 2011;
- (e) Admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, June 2012.
- 14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.

My legal experience since graduation from law school has been:

- (a) 1996, law clerk to the Honorable J. Ernest Kinard, Jr., Judge of the Circuit Court;
- (b) 1996-2000, associate at Swagart & Walker, P.A.;
- (c) 2000-02, Swagart, Walker & Reibold, P.A.;
- (d) 2002-05, Swagart, Walker, Martin & Reibold, P.A.;
- (e) 2005-08, Walker, Martin & Reibold, LLC;
- (f) 2008 to the present, Walker & Reibold, LLC.

My experience in criminal matters has been limited. I had exposure to General Sessions Court during my judicial clerkship. Since that time, I have handled a Post-Conviction Relief proceeding in which my client alleged ineffective assistance of his trial counsel. I have also represented a business charged with violations of a local noise/odor ordinance.

I have primarily been involved exclusively in civil matters. I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants in Magistrate's Court, Circuit Court, the SC Court of Appeals, and the SC Supreme Court. I have also represented both plaintiffs and defendants in the United States District Court for the District of SC. At least 95% of my practice has been devoted to litigation. The types of matters I have handled range from personal injury actions, to wrongful death and survival claims, employment discrimination litigation, products liability actions, breach of contract, fraud, and unfair trade practice claims.

To some extent, my background has prepared me to handle criminal actions. I became familiar with the operations of the Court of General Sessions during my judicial clerkship. I have had exposure to criminal law in PCR proceedings and in two criminal matters in which violations of local ordinances have been alleged. I have also regularly used the SC Rules of Evidence as a civil litigator, and these rules apply equally in criminal actions.

I would compensate for my lack of experience in criminal matters through education. I have read a criminal law reference text, and begun to attend criminal law continuing legal education seminars. If elected, I continue to attend continuing legal education seminars in criminal law and procedure. Additionally, I would engage in private study of criminal issues in order to ensure competency.

15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

I am rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell.

- 16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?
  - (a) federal: approximately 20 cases;
  - (b) state: between 160 and 175 cases.
- 17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?

(a) civil:

98%;

(b) criminal:

2%.

18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?

(a) jury:

98%;

(b) non-jury:

2%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters?

I most often serve as chief counsel, but have been associate counsel in some matters.

- 19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
  - (a) Michael Ritz c. Taylor Toyota. My partner and I represented an automobile dealer facing a class action suit challenging its assessment of closing fees under the Dealer's Act, which permits automatic double damages, punitive damages up to three times actual damages, and attorney's fees over a four year period. Plaintiff was represented by a number of prominent SC attorneys, including A. Camden Lewis, Dick Harpootlian, Gedney Howe, and Michael Spears. The case was the first of close to 300 similar cases filed to reach trial. The case was tried in Aiken, SC, and a defense verdict was obtained;
  - (b) Roberts v. LaConey, 375 S.C. 97, 650 S.E.2d 474 (2007). I sought permission to file an amicus brief in this case which was filed in the South Carolina Supreme Court's original jurisdiction. The case was decided in favor of the parties represented by my firm, and helped define what constitutes the unauthorized practice of law in the State of SC;
  - (c) <u>Brown v. Stewart</u>, 348 S.C. 33, 557 S.E.2d 626 (Ct.App. 2001). Among other things, this case involved the question of when a corporate shareholder may maintain a breach of fiduciary action against corporate board members or directors. I assisted in the trial of this case and argued the appeal, which helped to clarify an uncertain area of law in SC;
  - (d) <u>Butler v. Ford Motor Company, et al.</u>, 724 F.Supp.2d 575 (D.S.C. 2010). In this case, I represented a small tire company from Georgia who had been improperly sued in SC. The case is significant to me because I was able to have the case relocated to a proper forum, and prevent what appeared to be forum shopping;
  - (e) <u>Long v. Wray Automotive</u>. In this federal case, I represented a car dealership who had been sued for loss of filial consortium. I argued that such a cause of action did not exist in SC. The federal district court predicted that SC would not recognize such a claim. This decision can be found at <u>Long v. Wray Automotive</u>, 2006 WL 3612875 (D.S.C.), and helped to clarify an ambiguous area of law.
- 20. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
  - (a) <u>Brown v. Stewart, et al.</u>, SC Court of Appeals, November 19, 2001 (reported at 348 S.C. 33, 557 S.E.2d 676 (Ct.App. 2001) (brief and oral argument);
  - (b) <u>Hall v. Fedor</u>, SC Court of Appeals, March 25, 2002 (reported at 349 S.C. 169, 561 S.E.2d 654 (Ct.App. 2002) (on brief);

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- (c) OptimumPath, LLC. v. Belkin, et al., United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, May 7, 2012 (brief and oral argument);
- (d) <u>Sign N Ryde, LLC v. Larry King Chevrolet</u>, SC Court of Appeals, December 9, 2011 (brief and oral argument);
- (e) <u>Diane Henderson v. Summerville Ford-Mercury</u>, SC Supreme Court, September 11, 2013 (reported at 405 S.C. 440, 748 S.E.2d 221 (2013) (brief and oral argument).
- 21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Not applicable.
- 22. Have you ever held judicial office? I have not previously held judicial office.
- 24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? I have not held public office.
- 25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office.

  Not applicable.
- 26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? I have run for Circuit Court Judge on two prior occasions, in 2011 and 2012.
- 27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office?

Other than summer jobs while in school, I have not been employed in any occupation or business aside from the practice of law.

28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?

I am a member of Walker & Reibold, LLC, the law firm at which I practice. While I am not the managing partner, I have occasional managerial duties.

- 29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
- 30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

Apart from ownership in Walker & Reibold, LLC, the law firm at which I practice, I am unaware of any financial arrangements or business relationships that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest were I to be elected to the position of Circuit Court Judge. After any such election, I would withdraw from the law firm, and would automatically recuse myself from any matters which involved the firm for a period of one year. After that initial year, I would disclose any possible conflict of interest, and, if any party so requested, I would give significant deference to that party's request for recusal.

- 31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? No.
- 32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
- Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.
- Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law? No.
- 36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services?. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No.

37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance?

I have been covered by malpractice insurance at all times while I have practiced law. The current policy limit is \$2,000,000.

38. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.?

I maintain a Facebook account primarily to keep in touch with friends and family. If I were serving in a judicial capacity, I believe it would be inappropriate to maintain status with attorneys or parties who might regularly appear before me.

39. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)?

I acted as a lobbyist on one occasion in 2007. A friend and client was assaulted at an outdoor automated teller machine, or ATM. I was employed by her family to draft and help secure the passage of a law which strengthened the criminal penalties for robberies and assaults committed at ATMs. As a result of our efforts, S.C. Code Ann. Section 16-11-380 was amended. The penalty for committing a robbery at an ATM is now equal to the penalty for robbing a bank. The lobbyist principal was Saving Time, LLC, a limited liability company owned primarily by the victim's family.

- 40. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal?
- 41. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions.

  I am not aware of any such allegations.
- 42. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. I have no knowledge of any such charges.
- 43. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. I have not made any expenditures in furtherance of my campaign at this time.
- 44. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship.

I have made no contributions to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of my intent to seek election to a judgeship, and I am not aware of any such contributions which were made on my behalf.

45. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the

- pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No.
- 46. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
- 47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
- 48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No.
- 49. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
  - a) SC Bar Association, Member, House of Delegates 2008-14;
  - (b) Richland County Bar Association.
- 50. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
  - (a) Member, Board of Directors, Keep the Midlands Beautiful Honored as Board Member of the Year for SC Keep America Beautiful Affiliates in 2005;
  - (b) Appointed Member, City of Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission, 2007-13;
  - (c) Advisory Board Member, Salvation Army Command of the Midlands.
- 51. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

I have been involved in community affairs for some time. Over the past 15 years, I have worked as a volunteer at public events, raised money for the American Cancer Society, and served as a board member for local non-profit organizations. I am also a member of the 2002 Leadership Columbia class. I was appointed by Columbia City Council to the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission, where I continue to serve. I have recently been appointed as an advisory board member for the Salvation Army of the Midlands. These activities demonstrate my commitment to public service.

I have also been active in promoting the legal profession. I have been twice elected to the House of Delegates for the SC Bar Association. I have authored a number of articles and co-authored a legal text published by the SC Bar Association.

Service as a Circuit Court Judge is a natural outgrowth of this commitment service and the legal profession. That commitment, combined with my belief in the importance of the judicial system, has lead me to seek judicial office.

- 52. References:
  - (a) Cameron Runyon (Banker)
    The Braddock Group
    JHS Capital Advisors
    1333 Main St., Ste. 170
    Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 779-6533

- (b) Jo Anne Wessinger-Hill, Esquire Richardson Plowden 1900 Barnwell St. Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 771-4400
- (c) James Y. Becker, Esquire Haynsworth, Sinkler Boyd, P.A. 1201 Main St., Ste. 2200 Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 779-3080
- J. Gregory Studemeyer, Esquire
  J. Gregory Studemeyer P.C.
  P.O. Box 12201
  Columbia, SC 29211-2201
  (803) 779-3363
- (e) Andrew E. Haselden, Esquire Howser, Newman & Bessley, LLC 215 East Bay St., Ste. 303 Charleston, SC 29402 (843) 216-6940

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: Robert L. Reibold

Date: August 6, 2014